IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hironobu MACHIDA et al.

Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INPUTTING

ENCRYPTION KEY SETTING

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing

02/27/2004

Date:

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: